

## Message Text

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64

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 /003 W

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P 071112Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4719

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 1488

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO REVEREND ARTHUR GROVE AND  
CONGRESSMAN GOODLOE BYRON AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (GROVE, THOMAS ARTHRU)

SUBJ: W/W: STATUS REPORT: THOMAS ARTHUR GROVE

REF: STATE 077756

1. NEPALESE POLICE INVESTIGATION OF THE WHEREABOUTS  
OF TOM GROVE IS PROCEEDING. THE TWO OFFICERS WHO WERE  
SENT TO THE AREA WHERE HIS PASSPORT AND PAPERS WERE  
FOUND HAVE RETURNED TO KATHMANDU. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED  
BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE THAT A LOCAL OFFICIAL  
FROM THE DISTRICT INVOLVED IS GOING TO KATHMANDU TO  
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE TWO NEPALESE INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY HAVE  
SOME KNOWLEDGE OF TOM'S WHEREABOUTS.

2. THE POLICE REPORTED THAT THEY TRACED TOM, THROUGH USE  
OF PHOTOGRAPH, TO A VILLAGE KNOWN AS DUMREPANI, IN DOLAKHA  
DISTRICT, THE SAME DISTRICT IN WHICH TOM'S PAPERS WERE  
FOUND. THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO TRACE HIM  
BEYOND DUMREPANI.

3. WE ARE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING WITH THE NEPAL  
RASTRA BANK AND NEPAL BANK LIMITED TO DETERMINE WHETHER  
ANY OF TOM'S TRAVELLERS' CHECKS HAVE BEEN CASHED IN  
NEPAL.

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4. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH DR. PARKER (REFTTEL) AND AL READ OF MOUNTAIN TRAVELS. READ HAS FURNISHED A PHOTOGRAPH TO A SHERPA CURRENTLY LEADING A TREKKING GROUP THROUGH THE AREA WHERE THE PAPERS WERE FOUND. READ IS WILLING TO ASSIST IN SETTING UP A GROUP OF PEOPLE TO GO OUT TO THE AREA TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE TOM. REV. GROVE MAY WISH TO OPT FOR THIS ALTERNATIVE SHOULD THE NEPALESE POLICE BE UNABLE TO PRODUCE FURTHER INFORMATION SOON. A FORMER PEACE CORPS/NEPAL VOLUNTEER WHO IS A FRIEND OF TOM'S HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN GOING WITH SUCH A GROUP.

5. WE HAVE STILL NOT FOUND ANY EVIDENCE THAT ANYONE WENT WITH TOM ON THE TREK. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF JIM HICKS AND HAVE HAD NO COMMUNICATION FROM HIS FAMILY.

6. AMBASSADOR CARGO HAS LEFT NEPAL ON TRANSFER, BUT PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF ARE CONTINUING TO GIVE THIS INVESTIGATION TOP PRIORITY. EAVES

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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